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BULLETIN OF THE MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

N.S. Vol. 17, No. 2
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LOUIS CARRIER
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SOME PROBLEMS IN CONNECTION WITH A MEDICAL LIBRARY*

By PAUL M. O'SULLIVAN, M.A., M.B.

Mr. President and Fellows:

The vital importance of an adequate library in the activities of the Academy is so obvious that to enlarge on this theme were superfluous. But from the standpoint of expense it is equally self-evident that it is impossible to have all the books that might be desired, and therefore the problem presents itself as to the judicious selection of the books which shall go to form our library.

This problem is a large one, and I propose to confine my remarks to but one phase of a complex question. Granted that we are not in the position of the Surgeon-General's Library at Washington where there are no limitations imposed on the procuring of medical books, on what principle shall the selection be made? Shall it be on the democratic basis of the greatest service to the majority? I am sure that were a canvass made of men in the various specialties that each one would suggest that his own particular department was inadequately represented.

To apportion to the different branches of medicine their quota of relative space on the shelves of the library is not a simple procedure, and fortunately one with which this paper is not concerned. It is sufficient for my purpose to divide books as pertaining either to the working library or to the historical and literary section.

The working library comprises the books which treat of the theories and practice of medicine which are in vogue to-day. It is readily granted that these should be as complete and as up-to-date as it is possible for us to procure. The usefulness of the library for most of the members depends upon its ability to furnish one with the most recent literature on the problems which confront the practitioner and research worker in his daily vocation. It is one of the characteristics of this age that such information is contained largely in periodicals. Greater service in this direction must be along the line of subscribing to a larger number of the journals, especially to the foreign French, German and Italian scientific magazines. As regards text-books and systems, there is this formidable difficulty that their life of usefulness is out of all proportion to their expense. A text-book on pathology is antiquated in ten years; a manual of surgery is hoary with age in five years, while a work on medicine—so rapidly do opinions change—is antediluvian in three

*Read before the Academy of Medicine, Toronto, January 2, 1923.

years! These remarks apply *a fortiori* to the younger branches of medicine—to endocrinology and roentgenology, for example, where text-book supersedes text-book with vertiginous rapidity. It would be ruinous to the most generous appropriation to attempt to keep pace with the production of new text-books and to new editions of old text-books. On the other hand, what a sad spectacle it is to see within a few years these same expensive acquisitions of negligible marketable value, encumber the limited space of spare rooms to enshroud themselves in dust, sometimes before their pages have been cut.

Monographs, on the contrary, which are recognized as real contributions to the knowledge of any pertinent subject, should be procured even at considerable cost. The money expended on one of those huge systems which may be observed reposing in our lumber room would purchase many such monographs, or might more worthily, perhaps, have been expended on the acquisition of the next class of books with which this paper is primarily concerned.

In contrast to the working library, the ingredients of which are constantly shifting, many to oblivion, a few to occupy a niche as an historical contribution, there is what may be termed the permanent literature of medicine. Does it not seem to be the wise course, in view of the indisputable facts just mentioned, to concentrate our efforts in building up a substantial collection of the classics of medicine, both ancient and modern, to endeavour to collect all the outstanding original contributions, if possible, from the original sources and first editions?

It is a pleasant occupation to indulge in the harmless speculation on what would compose an ideal medical library for an institution such as our own. It may, perhaps in addition, be not altogether futile, should these remarks interest the members to assist the project by individual efforts and contributions.

Every medical library worthy of the name should possess copies of the imperishable pioneer writings. To begin with Hippocrates, the oldest, but perennially young and even modern in spirit—it should be our pride to possess a complete and scholarly edition of the works of the Father of Medicine, not alone in extracts, summaries or anthologies nor alone in translations, but in the unabridged original text.

Here it may be fitting to mention a few facts regarding early books in general and early medical works in particular. We cannot hope, at this stage, to obtain manuscripts nor codices of the classical writers. They are not for sale, and are jealously guarded by a few great libraries such as that of Florence, Vienna, the British Museum, the Vatican, the Escorial, Berlin and Petrograd. Since the Armistice Washington has secured some of these treasures from the war-stricken nations of Europe. Our horizon of possible treasures is thus limited by the date 1436, when Johann Gensfleisch, a native of Gutenberg, first discovered the use of movable type. With the help of Johann Fust the first book, the 42-line Bible, was printed in the City of Mainz in 1455. The sack of Mainz by Adolph of Nassau in 1462 scattered the German printers all over Europe, to Florence, Paris, Basel, England and Spain. The coincidence of the fall of the Eastern Empire and of Constantinople in 1453, and the

subsequent dispersion of the literary treasures along with the Greek scholars of the East, with the rise of the great printing houses, accounts, in part, for the early production in print of the classics. It is hardly likely that we should be so fortunate to obtain specimens of the printer's art in its infancy—in its swaddling clothes, or incunabular stage, that is to say, prior to the year 1500. The complete text of Hippocrates, translated into Latin by Fabius Calvus, was published at Rome in 1525 under the auspices of Pope Clement the Seventh. This is the first printed edition of Hippocrates. The following year the famous house of Aldus in Venice brought out a complete edition of the original Greek text. This is the *editio princeps* or Aldine edition. François Rabelais, better known as the author of Gargantua and Pantagruel, made one of the first translations of the Aphorisms in a little book much prized by bibliophiles, and printed at Lyons in 1532. Other celebrated editions are the Greek text with commentary by Janus Cornarius, printed by Froben in Basel in 1538 (the Academy has his later edition of 1546), the parallel Greek text with Latin translations by Hieronymus Mercurialis, printed in the same year by the wonderful establishment of Giunta at Venice, and the Frankfort edition of 1595 with translation and commentary by Anutius Foesius—the best before Littré's. Many copies were produced at intervals during the next two centuries, but all are based on one or other of these early labours, and nothing new in scholarship was produced until the publication of the monumental work of Littré, who devoted twenty years of his life to preparing his justly celebrated French translation of Hippocrates in ten huge volumes. The Academy possesses the English translation of Francis Adams, printed for the Sydenham Society in 1849. A great work is in the course of construction at the present time. The Prussian Academy has undertaken to bring out a thoroughly revised edition of all the classical medical writers. This enormous task, when completed, will be the last word in accurate scholarship.

CELSUS

The writings of Celsus were one of the first of the works of the ancients to be put into book form. He has enjoyed extraordinary popularity, more than one hundred editions of this medical Cicero having appeared since the Princeps Florentina of 1478.

A somewhat detailed study of the editions of Celsus may serve the purpose as a type of the points to be remembered in choosing a copy of one of the medical classics for a library.

The MSS. or codices from which the printed editions were made are to be found in but two libraries, the Vatican at Rome and the Medicean of Florence. After the publication of the first edition of 1478, there followed four Venetian imprints, Joannis Rubens, 1493; Phillipus Pinzius, 1497, Luca Giunta, 1524, and Aldus Manutius, 1528. Of these that of Giunta is the rarest and most costly. A very early edition was printed at Milan in 1481, another in Paris, 1547, by Henricus Stephanus, and a London edition in 1542. A very elaborate edition and one highly prized by connoisseurs is known as the Elzevir edition, edited by

Lindenius, and printed by Joannes Elsevirius of Leyden. Dr. George Porter presented to this Academy a copy of this greatly cherished book. The imprint of Padua, dated 1722, is valued because of the addition of three letters of Morgagni, an ardent admirer of Celsus, and in 1750 another edition was produced by the same press, that of Joseph Cominus, with some additional eulogies by the founder of pathology. Finally the Basel edition of 1748 is prized on account of the learned commentaries and notes by such authorities as Cæsarius, Scaliger, Casaubon and Morgagni.

GALEN

How much the mighty have fallen in the medical world is evidenced by the confession that we possess not a single copy of the works of Galen, nor yet a fragment of that mighty mountain of learning (this reproach has been removed by the presentation of the Giunta edition of Galen's Opera Omnia, 1556-77). For of all the classics which have survived, the works of Galen are the most voluminous. The genius whose works constituted almost the sole text-book in medicine for nearly a millenium has fallen so low in estimation that his productions are not available in a learned society of physicians even by way of an historical curiosity.

As early as 1526, Aldus, the founder of that celebrated Venetian family, which for over a century produced books noted for their beauty and accuracy, brought out a complete edition of the Greek text in five volumes. Beyond mentioning the well known translations of Linacre, physician to Henry VIII, and, some hold, the original of Browning's "Grammarian," I shall not weary you with a dry account of the various editions which we might have. Would that we had one! The most useful, in case anyone were contemplating its presentation is that of Kuhn, because parallel with the Greek text is a Latin translation. It consists of 20 volumes of some 800 pages each. Should this seem too appalling, rather than be left entirely destitute, the anthology of Daremberg in two volumes, Paris, 1854-6, selects the more characteristic and important of Galen's teaching.

Having secured the best sets available of these three princes of classical medicine for our Utopian library, I will now indicate the lesser lights which are indispensable for an historical collection of any pretentions.

Ideler, in his *Physici et medici græci minores*, has collected the fragments of many minor writers. Aristotle, of course, is essential or at least his three biological books. Aretæus may be obtained in the Oxford edition. Pliny's Natural History is rather a ponderous affair, only the 29th book relating exclusively to medicine, nevertheless it is a mine of curious, if often inaccurate, information. We have a good copy of the seven books of Paulus Aegineta, but lack the *Tetrabiblion* of Aetius, the *Practica* of Alexander of Tralles, and the works of Oribasius, of which a beautiful edition has been made by Bussemaker and Daremberg.

So much for the classics. These are not all by any means—merely the irreducible minimum as a start for an historical department.

Among the Arabians we should have El-Hawi of Rhazes, Al-Maliki of Haly Abbas, the Canon of Avicenna; the Ketab of Averroes, the Teisir of Avenzoar, and the *Tractatus de Regimine Sanitatis* of the Hebrew Maimonides. How extensively the Arabian school dominated European practice, even after the invention of printing, is shewn by the large number of translations from Arabian writers and even printed editions in the Arabic text, as compared with classical and Renaissance authors. Of the Canon of Avicenna alone eight editions appeared before the year 1500, and as many more after that date, the last in 1608, while the Arabic text was printed at Rome in 1593. It is curious to find in the Arabian Nights an account of the prophylactic measures against ophthalmia neonatorum. In the tale of the 109th night one reads (Burton's translation):

> "Then the midwives took the newborn child, and cut the navel cord, and darkened his eyelids with Kohl powder and named him Taj al-Malik Kharan."

Representing the mediæval period, there is the renowned *Regimen* of the School of Salerno, and other products such as the *Anatomia Porci* of Copho II, of that most ancient school, the *Hortus Sanitatis*, the Lily and the Rose of Medicine, The Isagoge of Joannitius, the works of Guy de Chauliac, Arnold of Villanova, and William of Salicet.

The lacuna in medical writings from before the tenth to the fifteenth centuries has given rise to the idea that these years were barren in production. This is not a just appreciation of these times, and especially is it the reverse of what actually was accomplished in the 13th century, an era of almost unparalleled activity in art and literature as well as in science. The apparent incongruity is explained by the fact that the early printers were interested in two widely separated eras, the classical and the contemporary. The intervening ages, excepting the Arabian authors, were undeservedly neglected. It has remained to scholars of our time to search out these forgotten manuscripts, thereby placing the later Middle Ages in a much more favourable light. Indeed, it may be shewn that in some respects these dark centuries contrast rather luminously with the complacent later ages which criticized them so severely. For example, the lamentable doctrine of laudable pus, which was universally held from the 15th century down to modern times, was condemned by surgeons of the 13th century, who by methods of asepsis which they employed, obtained union by first intention in their operations. Among these long forgotten works which have only recently been brought to light there is the *Practica* of Roger of Salerno, written in 1180, but not printed until 1854, after it had been resurrected by Daremberg; the works of Jean Yperman, who flourished about 1300 and whose surgery was published as late as 1856. The same fate attended Henri de Mondeville, a 13th century surgeon, whose works Pagel collected and printed in 1892. It was the last-mentioned author who shewed his independence of tradition by remarking that "God did not exhaust all his creative power in making Galen."

Mondinus is important as a connecting link with the Arabian period. This leads us on to Vesalius, and a copy of the *De fabrica corporis*

humanis is one of the most cherished possessions of any medical library. Names now become almost too numerous to mention, among them conspicuous stand Morgagni, Malpighi, Leeuwenoek, Paracelsus, Boerhaave, Haller and Sylvius. With these and the name of Harvey we enter modern times, and chief of all library treasures without peer is a first edition of the *Exercitatio de motu cordis*.

Books of the type of Auenbrugger's *Inventum novum*, Laennec's *Auscultation médiate*, Sydenham's "Principles," Hunter's Treatise on the blood, Louis' work on Phthisis—these are permanent acquisitions, representing landmarks in the progress of medical science.

Besides the strictly technical books, there is another class which should find a place on our shelves. I refer to the allusions to medicine, sometimes complimentary, more often the reverse, to be found in general literature.

From the Plautus of Aristophanes to the "Doctor's Dilemma" of Bernard Shaw, the laity have exhibited in writing their interest in the profession. In one of the oldest human documents, the Book of Leviticus, rational hygiene is inculcated. In the exaltation of the modern discovery of vitamines it is chastening to read in Ecclesiasticus "By surfeiting many perish, but he that dieteth himself prolongeth his life." One of the most curious works of this class is that monument of erudition, Burton's Anatomy of Melancholy. Benvenuto Cellini, who was an intimate friend of Vidius, gives in his Autobiography, a vivid account of his symptoms of mercurial poisoning, by which he accidentally discovered a therapeutic measure of the highest importance for the disease wherewith he was afflicted.

No more striking clinical picture of renal colic than that portrayed by Montaigne has ever been penned and other pathological symptoms have been excellently portrayed by writers of general literature—paranoia by Dostoieffsky in the case of Raskolnikoff, phthisis by Marie Bashkirtseff in her biography, Krafft-Ebing's psychopathia in the Confessions of Strindberg, and so on. On the other hand, some physicians have found time to show their versatility by invading the sphere of literature, of whom Sir Thomas Browne is a type. The literary works of Guy Patin, Smollett and Oliver Wendell Holmes would not be out of place in a medical library, but would add the graceful touch of the humanities to the severe region of fact.

THE QUARTERLY CUMULATIVE INDEX MEDICUS

By
FIELDING H. GARRISON
Lieutenant-Colonel, Medical Corps, U.S.A.

The *Index Medicus* was started in the year 1879 by Drs. John S. Billings and Robert Fletcher of the Surgeon-General's Library, as "a monthly classified record of the current medical literature of the world." The first number bore the date January 31st, 1879. Number 12 was dated December 31st, 1879. The prospectus states that "it is not at present intended to index journals devoted to the subjects of chemistry, pharmacy, veterinary medicine and dentistry," but the editors will select from them articles which have a bearing upon pathology or therapeutics. In the prefatory remarks, it is stated that "the nomenclature and classification are essentially those adopted by the Royal College of Physicians of London based on Dr. Far's well-known system." Curiously enough, Number 1 of the new journal starts out auspiciously by giving the prices of new books, by arranging the author index in three, the subject index in two vertical columns; while at the end of some of the monthly numbers will be found "Notes and queries" (questions and answers on recondite points relating to the history of medicine) and Corrigenda. On pages 164, 272, 370, 419 and 468, there is inserted, apparently as a kind of *bonne bouche*, a "Bibliography of Public Hygiene" by Dr. J. S. Billings. In the second volume (1880), all these idolatries are thrown down and disappear. Through Vols. II- & VI. (1880-84) the author and subject indexes at the end are unquestionably spoiled by printing them in needle-point type and abreast, instead of tandem, which does not make for easy reference or perspicuity. The normal vertical arrangement common to all good indexes is resumed in 1885 (Vol. 7) and continued through the last volume of the journal (1926-7).

In connection with the appearance of Vol. I. of the Index Catalogue of the Surgeon-General's Library one year later (1880), the publication of the new journal was a distinct event in the history of American medicine, as affording ready monthly or annual access to the current literature of a given year, which was then incorporated, in more extensive subject bibliographies (covering a wider range of time), in the successive quarto volumes of the *Index Catalogue*. Both publications exerted a decisive, preponderant effect upon the quality and reliability of our medical literature. Yet, in spite of its manifest usefulness, the *Index Medicus* never received adequate financial support from the medical profession, and after the bankruptcy of two successive publishers, the First Series came to an abrupt conclusion in 1899. During

1900-1902, an attempt to carry on, with very restricted bibliographical material, was made in France, under the title *Bibliographia Medica*, edited in three annual volumes by Drs. Marcel Baudouin, Charles Potain and Charles Richet (Paris). In 1903, the *Index Medicus* was revived by the Carnegie Institution of Washington, which has given handsome and loyal financial support to the journal. During the forty-six years of its existence (1879-1926), the *Index Medicus* comprises 45 volumes, or, including the French publication, 48 volumes, as follows:

First Series: 1879-99, Vols. I–XIX. Edited by John S. Billings and Robert Fletcher. Published by F. Leypoldt, New York (1879-84), George S. Davis, Boston and Detroit (1885-95), Rockwell and Churchill, Boston (1896-99).

French interim publication: *Bibliographia Medica*, Paris, 1900-1902, Vols. I–III. Edited by Marcel Baudouin, Charles Potain and Charles Richet. Published by the Institut de bibliographie, Paris.

Second Series: 1903-1920, Vols. I–XVIII. Edited by Robert Fletcher and Fielding H. Garrison (1903-1911), Fielding H. Garrison (1912-1916), Fielding H. Garrison and Frank J. Stockman (1917-1919), Fielding H. Garrison (1920). Published by the Carnegie Institution of Washington (1903-1920). Printed by Rockwell and Churchill (1903-1916), the Lord Balitmore Press, Baltimore (1917-1920).

Third Series: 1921-1926, Vols. I–VI. Edited by Fielding H. Garrison (1921), Arthur N. Tasker and Albert Allemann (1922-1924), Fielding H. Garrison and Albert Allemann (1925-1926). Published by the Carnegie Institution of Washington (1921-1926). Printed by the Lord Baltimore Press, Baltimore (1921-1926).

Including the supplementary No. 5 (June, 1927), Vol. VI. of the *Index Medicus* (1926-7) comprises some 71,840 references on 1,796 pages, as against about 24,400 estimated references on the 1,200 pages of Vol. V. (1925). The Annual Index of Vol. VI. covers 183 pages, as against 128 pages in Vol. V. This, the terminal volume of the Third Series, is therefore the largest ever published. The increase in bulk of material is due to the fact that, in winding up the series, it was thought fitting and proper to include in the final volume as many references to the medical literature of 1926 as were available when the copy of the terminal number was sent to the printers, in the spring of 1927. Prior to that date, arrangements had already been made by the authorities of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, the American Medical Association (Chicago) and the Surgeon-General's Office (Washington) for the fusion of the *Index Medicus* (1879-1926) with the *Quarterly Cumulative Index*, published by the American Medical Association (1916-1926). This arrangement went into effect on January 1st, 1927, and the first semi-annual volume (Vol. I.) of the new journal (the *Quarterly Cumulative Index Medicus*) has appeared.

The reasons for conjoining the two journals "in the estate of honourable marriage" are as follows: since 1916, it has been recognized by all concerned that the publication of two bulky and expensive periodicals, covering much the same material, involved an enormous duplication of labour, expense, administration, paper, printer's ink and time consumed in redaction of copy, proof-reading and ultimate publication and distribution of the two journals. The contemplated plan of fusion, interrupted by the European War and its consequences, seemed manifest destiny. Fusion was accomplished under the following conditions: the

new journal will be financed jointly by the Carnegie Institution of Washington and the American Medical Association: the indexed material will be supplied from the Libraries of the American Medical Association and the Surgeon-General's Office, the latter covering medical periodicals not subscribed for by the former: new medical books and pamphlets will be catalogued for redaction directly from domestic and foreign trade lists: the Editorial Board comprises the editors of the two parent journals: the larger policies of the new journal will be controlled by an Advisory Board, consisting of Dr. Ludvig Hektoen (for the American Medical Association), Colonel James M. Phalen, M.C., U.S. Army (for the Surgeon-General's Library) and Dr. George L. Streeter (for the Carnegie Institution of Washington).

The combined journal possesses the following advantages:—(1) It indexes itself alphabetically, both as to authors and subjects, thus dispensing with the cumbersome and expensive Author Index of the *Index Medicus*. (2) The subject entries are brief English abstracts of the actual content of the articles indexed, without reference to the titles, unless accurately descriptive and not otherwise ambiguous, obscure or misleading. (3) For the benefit of foreign research workers, the author titles are presented in full, in the original languages, with the exception of titles in Slavic, Scandinavian and Oriental languages, which are given in English translation. (4) The quarterly material is cumulated semi-annually in two volumes, dispensing with the antecedent quarterly numbers, and thus saving time and labour by necessitating reference to only two alphabetical arrangements, as against four in the *Index Medicus* of 1921-1926 and twelve in the volumes for 1879-1920. (5) The new books and pamphlets of each trimester and semester are presented apart, by authors and subjects, with attached prices and addresses of publishers. There follows a list of abbreviations of medical and scientific periodicals indexed, with full titles and publishers. Better than any other organization, the American Medical Association is in position to make the combined *Index* more widely useful and continually valuable. The subscription lists have already increased fourfold, and those who were prime movers in the policy of fusion have every reason to believe that the venture was well taken and that the foundations of the new periodical have been well and truly laid.

PRACTICAL EDUCATION OF THE MEDICAL STUDENT IN LIBRARY METHODS

By
C. F. WYLDE, M.D.
Honorary Librarian, McGill Medical Library

Prior to the year 1921 no instruction in library methods was given at McGill, and the student was allowed to pass out of the Medical School with but a memory of the reading room and its text-books. He had no occasion to search the catalogues, and it is doubtful if he even knew of their existence. The journals, too, unless attention was called to a special article by a teacher, were almost unknown to the student, and any knowledge of them that he might have on graduation was obtained accidentally and without guidance as to their merits or usefulness. I have asked several recent graduates how much knowledge they had of bibliographic methods and if they could use the catalogues. They all replied that they knew very little and often wished they could have had some instruction during their student days.

Commencing, therefore, in 1921, one lecture was given to each year in turn, so that all students in attendance at the College received instruction.

The lecture consisted in:—

(1) A brief history of the Medical Library at McGill, and the system of classifying and cataloguing was demonstrated.

(2) A short history of bibliography—commencing at the time of the earliest days of printing (in the 15th century) and tracing it down through the simple inventories and book lists of that time to the numerous catalogues of the 17th century—and so on to the splendid and complete printed catalogues of the present day.

(3) A demonstration by means of lantern slides of the printed catalogues, *viz.*, The *Surgeon-General's Catalogue*, the *Index Medicus* and the *Quarterly Cumulative Guide*.

It was found that the subject could not be adequately covered in one lecture, so, commencing in 1926, two lectures have been given to first year medical students, and extended to include the following:

(4) Practical demonstration in obtaining a bibliography.

(5) Instructions for writing a case report or thesis, and its method of publication, with an explanation as to the difference in the requirements for a paper to be read before a society and a published paper or thesis.

(6) A description and classification of a few of the most important medical journals.

That some form of instruction in library methods is important I have not the least doubt, but some students will benefit more than others, not perhaps by what they have heard only: but it is thought the desire for further knowledge in the subject may be inculcated, and they will be encouraged to try out for themselves the searching of the catalogues, and perhaps even the writing of a paper or thesis.

In a year or two one will learn from the student of today on his graduation whether or not he has derived some real help from this form of instruction.

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ANNIVERSARIES AND COMMEMORATIONS

By
H. E. MacDermot, M.D., Montreal

To those who seek out anniversaries and commemorations of famous dates in medical history, 1927 and 1928 yield a rich harvest. There are not many years in the century which serve as formal reminders of such men as Robert Boyle, of John Hunter and Lord Lister; or of the publication of such works as the "De Motu Cordis" and John Bright's observations on nephritis.

These are names and events which evoke that comment and discussion of which only the greatest may be repeatedly the subject without diminution of their freshness and inspiration for us, but it is not my purpose to deal with them particularly. I am interested for the moment more in recalling others whose names, if they are not "an echo and a light unto eternity," at least are as tapers which "yet burn through the night of time."

Our list begins well with the name of Nicolaus Leonicenus (1428-1524), physician and professor of medicine in Italy, whose independence and intellectual courage was well shown in his daring to correct the botanical errors in Pliny's Natural History. His studies of syphilis, a disease which he regarded as infectious, should also be recalled.

Anuce Foesius (1528-1591), published an edition of Hippocrates which was one of the most valuable produced before the all-embracing ten-volume edition on which Littré spent his life in the middle of the last century.

The year 1728 saw the death of the last of the famous Huguenot family of Chamberlens. For three generations they had lived and practised surgery and midwifery in England, their devotion to the latter branch being especially strong; most of them attended the queens of the time. This specialization was no doubt dependent to some extent on their knowledge of the use of obstetrical forceps, which there is good reason to believe was original with them. They kept this knowledge as a family secret for nearly 200 years.

Marcello Malpighi (1628-1694) has left his name enshrined in anatomy, but it would be an indictment of our historical sense to associate his name with anatomy alone, in the unfortunately narrow sense in which the term is now employed. He was an embryologist, a physiologist, and a histologist. He was born in the year in which Harvey published his "De Motu Cordis," and was destined to show by means of the microscope the capillaries which Harvey had foreshadowed, but had not been able to actually see. As has been well said by Dr. Fraser

Harris, "Harvey made their existence a logical necessity; Malpighi made it a histological certainty." Malpighi's description of the red blood corpuscles (discovered by Swammerdam) as "fat globules looking like a rosary of red coral," recalls Oliver Wendell Holmes' quality of imagination, and is an indication of his unusually sensitive and attractive personality.

Oliver Goldsmith was born in 1728. He will not be remembered for his contributions to medical knowledge; indeed, his association with professional work is notable for its obscurity. Scientific accuracy he never possessed, witness the story in his "History of Animated Nature" of a famous mathematician of the time being so much given to yawning that he was unable to complete his lectures; of which statement a categorical denial was made by the indignant family of the professor, and a charge of calumny made against Goldsmith. But we can very well afford to exchange his medical qualifications for what he gave to English literature.

John Hunter was born in 1728 and died in 1793. How one would like to have again the delight of reading for the first time of his gigantic labours. There are few men in medical history with whom the medical student should so soon become acquainted.

Simon André Tissot (1728-1797), physician of Lausanne, shows us that as long ago as 200 years books on medicine could be written in popular style. His tract "Avis au peuple sur la santé" ran through ten editions in six years, and was translated into every European language.

Charles White (1728-1813) is remembered for his pioneer work in midwifery, but he was also the first to excise the head of the humerus, and introduced the method of reducing shoulder dislocations by the leverage of the heel in the axilla.

Richard Neale (1827-1900) conducted a busy London practice and managed at the same time to be the editor of *The Medical Digest*, a forerunner of our *Index Medicus*.

Lord Lister (1827-1900). His centenary year has seen large additions to the already extensive literature which has grown up around his name and work.

Albrecht von Graefe (1828-1870). Few men have contributed as much to a specialty as did he, and in as short a period. He is characterized by Dr. Garrison as "creator of the modern surgery of the eye, and indeed the greatest of all eye surgeons."

Etienne Tarnier (1828-1897), was responsible for developments in obstetrical practice. There can be no fifth year student to whom the mention of his name does not at once recall the axis traction forceps.

BITS OF MEDICAL HISTORY FOUND IN SOME OLD AMERICAN JOURNALS*

Virginia

The First Medical Fee Bill in Virginia

Comparative Compensation of the Medical Profession One Hundred and Forty Years Ago and at the Present Time. By L. S. Joynes, M.D., Emeritus Professor of Physiology, Medical College of Virginia. Virginia Med. Month., 1877, IV., 1-8. (The bill is given, copied from Henning's Statutes at Large, Vol. IV., p. 509. The Act was passed August, 1736).

Chimborazo Hospital, Richmond

History of Chimborazo Hospital, Richmond, Va., and Its Medical Officers During 1864 and 1865. By J. R. Gildersleeve. Virginia Med. Semi-Month., 1904-05, IX., 148-152. (Dr. James Brown McCaw, Dean of the Medical College of Virginia, was in charge).

Dr. James Brown McCaw

Dr. James Brown McCaw. By Fielding Garrison. *Old Dominion Jour., Med. Surg.*, 1906, V., 65-66. (Dr. J. B. McCaw was the father of Brigadier-General Walter Drew McCaw, who, Garrison says, "represents the fifth generation of a remarkable line of Virginia Practitioners." General Walter Drew McCaw is an alumnus of the Medical College of Virginia. His father served as Dean of the College for twelve years, and was its professor of Chemistry and Medicine for many years. He was editor of the *Virginia Medical Journal* from 1853 to 1861, and in 1864 he became editor of the *Confederate States Medical Journal*).

Dr. James McClurg (1746-1823)

A Memoir of James McClurg, M.D., With Extracts from His Writings. By James B. McCaw of Richmond, Va. *Virginia Med. Surg. Jour.*, 1854, II., 465-482. (The *Philadelphia Journal of Medical and Physical Sciences* was in 1820 dedicated to "The Elegant Scholar and Accomplished Physician, Dr. McClurg." See American Medical Biographies. By Kelly and Burrage, 1920, 731-732).

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*These notes on medical history have been sent us by Miss Florence McRae, librarian of the Medical College of Virginia. Miss McRae tells us that these have been taken from old medical journals, and we have no doubt that they will form interesting references for those who wish to look up "Virginiana" and other incidents in medical history. This is exactly the sort of contribution we welcome.

THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE.

Fevers in Virginia

Notices of Fevers in the City of Norfolk, in Virginia. In a letter from Dr. James Taylor to the Editor (Dr. Benj. Smith Barton.) Another letter on Fevers in Virginia from Dr. James Greenway of Dinwiddie Co. *Philadelphia Med. Phys. Jour.*, 1804-05, I., 5; 8.

An Account of the Yellow Fever at Alexandria (Virginia) in 1803. In a letter from Dr. B. H. Hall of that place, to Dr. Mitchell (Samuel Latham Mitchell, Co-Editor of the *Medical Repository*). *Med. Repository*, 1805, II., 18-21.

History of the Yellow Fever as it Appeared in Norfolk (Va.). During the Summer and Autumn of 1821. By Dr. Robt. Archer, Medical Officer. *Am. Med. Recorder*, 1822, V., 60.

Hydrophobia in Virginia

An Account of a Case of Hydrophobia Successfully Treated by Copious Bleeding and Mercury. In two letters from Dr. Robt. Burton of Bent, in the State of Virginia, to Dr. Benj. Rush of Philadelphia. Dr. Rush's Reply. Bent Creek, Va., Aug. 21st, 1803. *Med. Repository*, 1805, II., 15.

Medical Society of Virginia

Organized in the beginning of 1821, and incorporated by Act of Legislature January 2nd, 1824. Constitution amended April 20th, 1826. *Med. Recorder*, 1826, X., 121-152.

Later there was called a meeting to form a "State Society," the claim being made that the existing Medical Society of Virginia was mainly a Richmond association. *Stethoscope*, 1851, I., 282; 285. An Act Encorporation the Medical Society of Virginia. *Stethoscope*, 1851, I., 113-121.

Met in Danville, April, 1857. Met in Richmond, April 27th, 1858. "Adjourned *sine die*." No further mention found until the reorganization in 1870.

List of those who assembled, November 2nd, 1870, to organize the Medical Society of Virginia—ninety in number. *Trans. Med. Soc.* of *Virginia*, 1913, 374. Biographical List, p. 380.

Other States

A Tribute to the Memory of the late Caspar Wistar, etc. By His Friend, David Hosack (Philadelphia, 1760-1818). *Am. Med. Recorder*, 1818, I., 149-155.

Anaesthesia, Discoverers of

The Discovery of Anaesthesia. By J. Marion Sims (1809-1894). (Dr. Sims proves that Long and Wells both produced complete anaesthesia for surgical operations before Morton. Portraits of Long and Wells). *Virginia Med. Month.*, 1877, IV., 81-100.

Vesico—Vaginal Fistula—Operation

Dr. James Marion Sims is credited with being the first American to perform the operation for vesico-vaginal fistula successfully, but in his

article, "On the Treatment of Vesico-Vaginal Fistula," *Am. Jour. Med. Science*, 1852, XXIII., 59-82, he gives the credit to two others. He says that on the tenth of May, 1839, Dr. Hayward did the first successful operation, and Dr. Peter Mettauer of Virginia the second, a few months later. See Dr. George Hayward's article, "Cases of Vesico-Vaginal Fistula Treated by Operation." *Boston Med. Surg. Jour.*, 1851, XLIV., 209-224. Also Dr. Mettauer's article. *Boston Med. Surg. Jour.*, 1840, XXII., 154-155.

University of Pennsylvania

The Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania is the oldest medical school in the country, the first medical professor having been appointed May 3rd, 1675. First medical diploma given. *Med. Surg. Reporter*, 1858-59, I., 10; 263.

The Pennsylvania Hospital founded in 1754 by Benjamin Franklin and Dr. Bond, possessed the largest medical library in the country at that time—over 10,000 volumes. *Med. Surg. Reporter*, 1858-59, I., 14.

First Important Paper on Appendicitis

Perforating Inflammation of the Vermiform Appendix. By Reginald Heber Fitz. *Trans. Assn. Am. Phys.*, Philadelphia, 1886, I., 107-144.

Original Description of Huntington's Chorea

On Chorea. By George Huntington. *Med. Surg. Reporter*, 1872, XXVI., 317-321.

Ligation of the Innominate Artery

The first successful ligation of the innominate artery was performed by Dr. A. W. Smith of New Orleans. See *Am. Jour. Med. Science*, 1866, LII., 280-282.

Pyorrhœa Alveolaris (Rigg's Disease)

Suppurative Inflammation of the Gums, and Absorption of the Gums and Alveolar Process. By John M. Riggs. *Penns. Jour. Dent., Science*, 1876, III., 99-104.

NOTES

The next annual Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons is to be held in Boston, Massachusetts, October 8th to 12th, 1928.

In Great Britain there seems to be very little co-operation between medical libraries. There is a growing feeling, however, that this lack should be remedied. Mr. Charles Frankenberger has forwarded to us a letter from Mr. R. L. Sheppard, of the Bureau of Hygiene and Tropical Diseases in London, asking him for information about the Medical Library Association, with a view to organizing upon similar lines.